

Homestead National Monument Of America

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Artist-in-Residence Program

Artists have been intimately tied to national parks since the 19th century, when painters such as Thomas Moran documented the majestic landscapes of the American West. These artists played a crucial role in stimulating the establishment, visitation, and appreciation of these national parks. Today, artists still find inspiration in national parks and continue to help us make meaningful connections to our Nation's special places.

The Artist-in-Residence program at Homestead National Monument of America invites professional artists (fine art painters, sculptors, fine art photographers, performers, writers, video/filmmakers, composers, etc.) to spend a period of time working on their artwork and living in park housing. These artists channel their individual talent into one-of-a-kind pieces inspired by the homestead story and park environment. The opportunity to live and work at Homestead National Monument of America benefits the selected artist as well as those who will experience their artwork today and in the future.



The year 2015 is the seventh year of Homestead's Artist-in-Residence program. Especially as we gear up for the National Park Service's Centennial in 2016, we are seeking applicants to partner with us in exploring our many historical and environmental themes. We welcome artists of any medium, such as visual and performing artists, composers, and writers. Residency periods are about 2 weeks long, and take place during the months of April through October. Please list date preferences for your residency as part of the submitted application package. Housing will be provided at or near the park; we can most easily accommodate artists seeking spring and fall residencies.

** Fine art photograph does not include basic documentary work or scenic postcard and calendar type images. Photographs should express a unique creative vision, and be fine art in presentation and style.*



Residency Requirements

Willingness to share your inspiration with others is a central tenet of the Artist-in-Residence Program.

Resident artists are asked to present one public program during their residency. These presentations should be based on the artist's work, experiences, and interests, and may include workshops, discussions, demonstrations, etc. All programs should be developed in consultation with park staff, and should be appropriate for general park audiences.

Painters, potters, sculptors, and other artists, when appropriate, will be encouraged to work daily in view of park visitors.

The artist is requested to donate an original work which embodies Homestead's interpretive themes (described on next page).

Any donated artwork must be received within one year of the residency. All expenses for materials and for delivery of the artwork to the park is the responsibility of the artist.

Artists will permit park staff to photograph artwork created and programs given during the residency. The artist will sign a photo release to the National Park Service for use of images of the artwork from the residency, and images of activities associated with the residency. Donated artwork and/or associated images will not be used for commercial purposes, but may be used for education or interpretation by the National Park Service or Eastern National, the monument's cooperating association.



Interpretive Themes of Homestead

The Artist-in-Residence Program is designed to interpret the park's many cultural and natural resources through the unique creative vision of each artist. The park's key interpretive themes have been defined to help focus interpretive efforts:

Westward Expansion & Immigration



The Homestead Act:

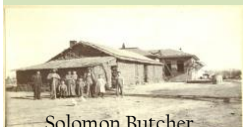
- was successful in its intent to encourage settlement of the American West.
- was presented as an opportunity to obtain the "American Dream" of owning your own land and determining your own future.
- encouraged European immigration to the United States and its results are still evident in the communities of the Great Plains.

Industry & Agricultural Revolution



Human needs and circumstances of the land led to accelerated technological development in the areas of agriculture, transportation, and communication.

Social Change & Community



Solomon Butcher

The Homestead Act hastened the relocation and dissipation of American Indians and permanently altered their way of life.

The Homestead Act changed the American social structure by allowing disenfranchised groups (women, African Americans, immigrant groups) to establish homesteads and own land.

The Natural World



The prairie, woodland, and creek environments provide beauty, solitude, and ecological importance.

Settlement and cultivation of the West precipitated by the Homestead Act greatly developed the nation, yet drastically altered and eliminated existing ecosystems. The restoration of the tallgrass prairie provides the opportunity to visualize and interact with a historic landscape.

Application Details

Please submit:

- 1) A completed **Volunteer Application for Natural Resource Agencies**, available at nps.gov/home/supportyourpark/artist-in-residence-program.htm
- 2) A **Statement of Purpose**: Please explain what you hope to accomplish during your residency at the monument. Also describe how you will:
a) use at least one of the park's interpretive themes in your work; b) use the stay to contribute to your artistic development; and c) what you will contribute to benefit the park. In addition, we desire artists who want to be visible and interact with visitors. Please also include your vision of sharing your art with the public in at least one public program. (no more than one page)
- 3) A list of **desired dates** for your approximately 2 week residency
- 4) A list of **exhibitions and/or teaching experiences**
- 5) **Samples of artwork** (do not send originals): Send prints or digital files (.jpg preferable) of 6 different images. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope, if you would like print samples returned to you. Submit the items and information via mail, email, and/or fax.
- 6) A list of **three professional references** with contact information

Application Deadline

Entries will be accepted through **January 31, 2015** via mail or email. Artists will be notified of selections by **mid-February**.

Mailing Address:

Homestead National Monument of America
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Phone: 402-223-3514 Fax: 402-228-4231

Selection Process

Selection is based on artistic merit as demonstrated by the examples submitted, the ideas expressed in the statement of purpose, the feasibility and potential public interest of proposed public programs, schedule accommodation, and the willingness to accept the conditions of the National Park residency opportunity. Artists will be selected by a panel of National Park Service representatives.

For additional questions about the Artist-in-Residence Program,
contact Park Guide Molly Watters

Email: Molly_Watters@nps.gov Phone: 402-223-3514

Photo Credits: Mel Mann, Homestead Artist-in-Residence 2010, unless otherwise indicated



Gene Roncka

